



Public Policy Priorities – Fiscal Year 2020

At The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, we lead the community in advocating for food security for all, bringing issues of hunger to the forefront, and advancing solutions to address the underlying causes of hunger in western Massachusetts, including our country's long history of institutional racism. As with all underlying causes, we will be particularly mindful of how race plays out in the public policies we advocate for to further our mission *to feed our neighbors in need and lead the community to end hunger.*

Federal:

Tier 1—We will actively work on these priorities.

- Protect and Strengthen Federal Nutrition Programs
 - SNAP
 - Oppose proposed federal rules changes that would put vulnerable populations at risk of food insecurity
 - Child Nutrition Reauthorization
 - TEFAP—The Emergency Food Assistance Program
- 2020 Census—we will work to achieve full participation

Tier 2—We will work on these priorities in coalition with other organizations who are taking the lead.

- Protect and Strengthen Anti-Poverty Programs
 - Budget, tax proposals, and welfare reform.
 - Earned Income Tax Credit

State:

Tier 1—We will actively work on these priorities.

- Breakfast After the Bell
- HIP—the Healthy Incentives Program
- MEFAP—the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program
- Hunger-Free Campus Initiative
- Transportation

Tier 2—We will work on these priorities in coalition with other organizations who are taking the lead.

- SNAP Gap/Common Application
- MA Food Trust
- School Meal Debt
- Standardized expiration dates on foods
- Tax incentives for food donors
- Workforce development: Cliff Effect, Earned Income Tax Credit, Learn to Earn and Workforce Development Trust Fund



Tier 3—We will support efforts of other organizations by adding our name to sign-on letters, etc.

- Safe Communities Act
- Affordable housing
- Access to affordable services/education, such as childcare, higher education, behavioral health services, substance abuse treatment, and services for seniors and disabled people.
- Universal access to affordable health insurance
- Support sister organizations' policy priorities when overlapping and appropriate (for example: MA Food System Collaborative, CISA, MA Public Health Association, Lift Our Kids Coalition).